



## Riverfront Path ITEP Virtual Open House

# Welcome!

*The meeting will begin shortly.*

While we wait for everyone to log on, please find the chat box (located at the bottom of your screen) and send us a message with your name and where you're from (either organization or neighborhood).



# City of Rockford

## Riverfront Path ITEP Grant Application



## Virtual Open House

October 26, 2020



# The City of Rockford Project Team



**Anne Wilkerson**  
PW Business Manager  
*City of Rockford*

**Kyle Saunders**  
Director of Public Works  
*City of Rockford*



**Jeremy Carter**  
Traffic Engineer  
*City of Rockford*

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City Engineer  
*City of Rockford*

# Agenda

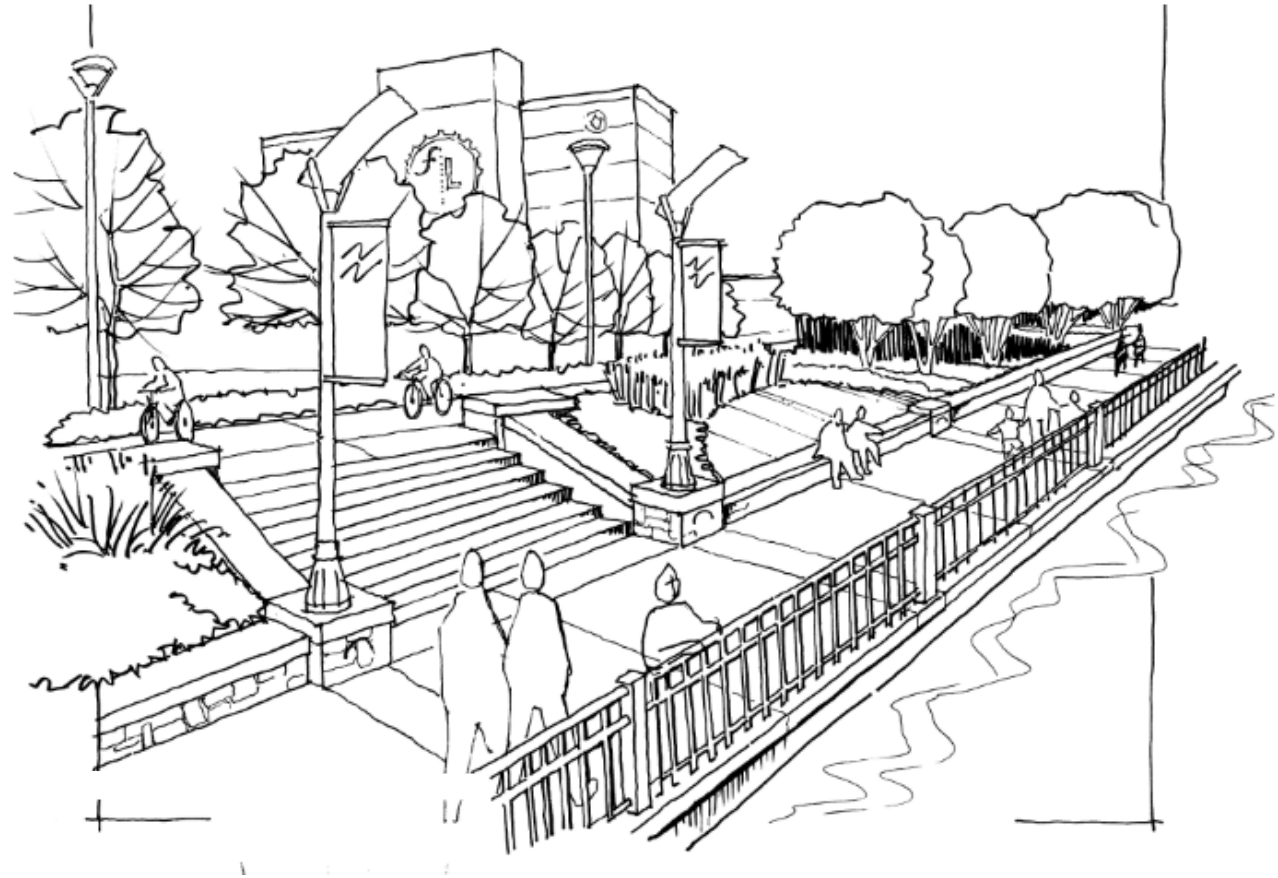
- **Welcome and Introductions**

- 1 ITEP Grant Program Review**
  - Program Goals
  - Past ITEP Projects
  - ***Pause for Questions & Live Poll***

- 2 Riverfront Path Overview**
  - Past Plans
  - Proposed Project
  - ***Pause for Questions & Live Poll***

- 3 Preliminary Engineering**
  - Elements of PE I
  - Why PE I?

- 4 Next Steps**





## **Riverfront Path ITEP Virtual Open House**

# **Welcome & Agenda**


## *Questions or Comments?*

- Let's take a moment to test the live polling feature and find the Q & A box!

# 01

## ITEP Grant Program Overview



A photograph of three people cycling on a wooden boardwalk. In the foreground, a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a blue helmet, a green tank top, and pink shorts, is riding a blue bicycle. Behind her, a man in a grey t-shirt and a woman in a yellow t-shirt are also cycling. They are all wearing helmets. The boardwalk is made of wooden planks and is flanked by metal railings. Above them is a concrete bridge structure with visible beams. In the background, a red kayak is hanging from the bridge. The text "What is the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Grant Program (ITEP)?" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a bold, black font.

## **What is the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Grant Program (ITEP)?**

# What is ITEP?

- **Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)** is administered and managed by the **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)**.
- The goal of the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) is to **allocate resources to well-planned projects that provide and support alternate modes of transportation**, enhance the transportation system, and improve quality of life.
- ITEP is an important funding source for walking, biking, and trail projects.
- Funding cycle every two years:
  - Call for proposals **opened Aug 21** and **runs through Nov 2**





**What projects are  
eligible for ITEP  
funding?**

# ITEP Funding Categories

1. Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities
2. Streetscapes
3. Conversion of Abandoned Railroad Corridors to Trails
4. Historic Preservation/Rehabilitation of Historic Transportation Facilities
5. Vegetation Management in Transportation ROW
6. Archeological Activities Related to Impacts of Transportation Projects

# ITEP Funding Categories (cont.)



7. Storm Water Management and Water Pollution Prevention Related to Highway Construction or Runoff
8. Reduce Vehicle-Caused Wildlife Mortality or Restore Habitat Connectivity
9. Construction of Turnouts, Overlooks, and Viewing Areas

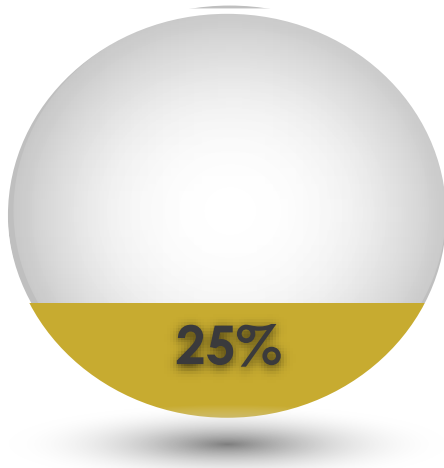


- Projects **must enhance the transportation system** by serving a transportation need or providing a transportation use or benefit.
- Cannot be solely for recreation
- Projects cannot be routine maintenance
- Project awards are capped at **\$2 million** per project
- ITEP is a **reimbursable** grant program

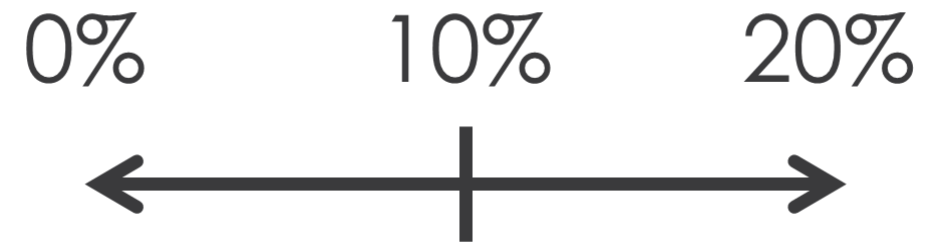
# What costs are covered by ITEP?

- Preliminary Engineering – **80/20 match**
  - Phase I
  - Phase II
- Utility Relocations – **80/20 match**
- Right-of-way Acquisition – **50/50 match**
- Easements – **50/50 match**
- Construction Engineering – **80/20 match**
- Construction (includes material/labor) – **80/20 match**

# New: Emphasis on high-need communities



**25% of total** ITEP  
program funding are  
set-aside for high-need  
communities



Local Match  
requirement for high-  
need communities will  
utilize a sliding scale





## Recent Rockford ITEP Projects

- Rails to Trails Bridge
- Jefferson Street Pedestrian Bridge
  - \$2M Max Grant
  - Application Deadline is Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Highly Competitive Grant
  - Last cycle submittal/award ratio was 8:1



## Riverfront Path ITEP Virtual Open House

# ITEP Grant Program Overview

## *Questions or Comments?*

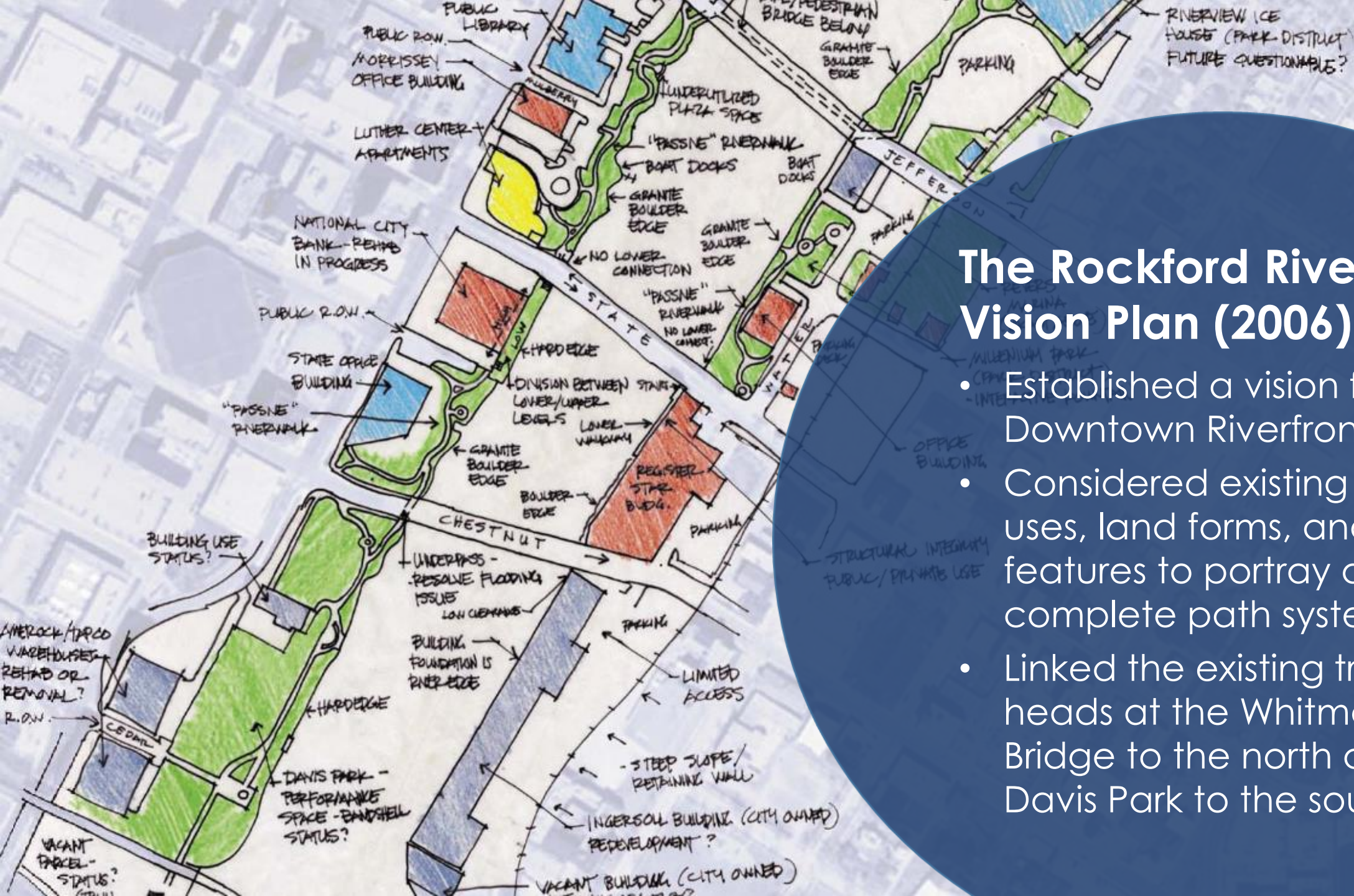
- Send us any questions through the Q&A box, and any general comments through the chat box!
- Live Poll: **Poll 1**



# 02

## Riverfront Path Project Overview





## The Rockford Riverwalk Vision Plan (2006)

- Established a vision for our Downtown Riverfront
- Considered existing land uses, land forms, and historic features to portray a complete path system
- Linked the existing trail heads at the Whitman St Bridge to the north and Davis Park to the south





## **Downtown Strategic Action Plan (2015)**

- Built on past plans
- Emphasized improved multi-modal mobility to and through downtown
- Stressed improved bike connections to and through downtown
- Proposed a more complete bike/ped system for downtown

The background of the slide features a photograph of a large, green, abstract sculpture of a reclining figure, possibly a person, set against a backdrop of a modern building with a grid-like facade and some trees. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text. The title 'DAVIS PARK MASTER PLAN' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

# DAVIS PARK MASTER PLAN

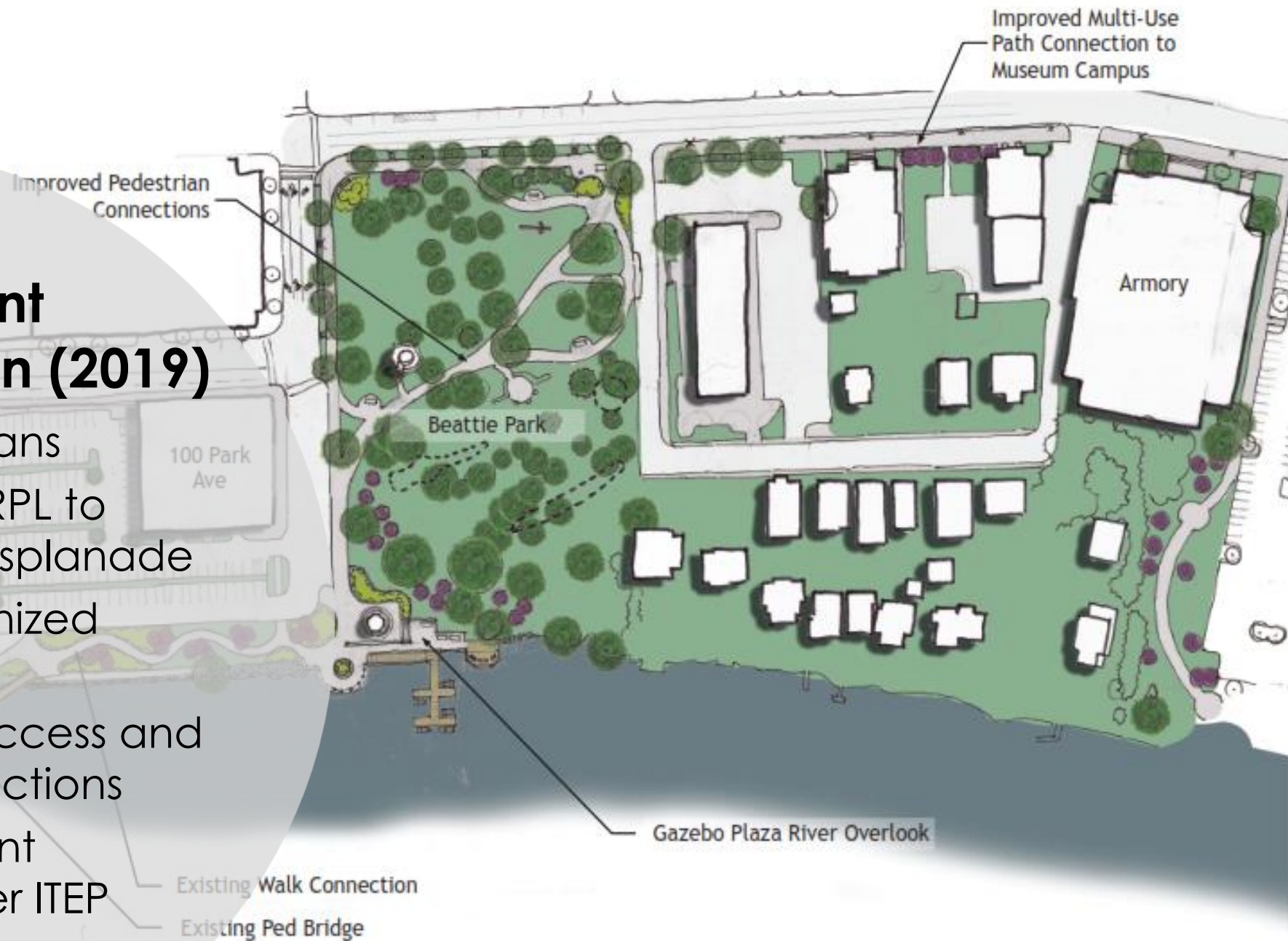
## **Davis Park Master Plan (2016)**

- Restorative plan focused on complimenting surrounding land uses in and through Davis Park
- Focused on active use of the riverfront
- Recommended a riverfront multi-use path with a trail head connection at the Rails to Trails Bridge

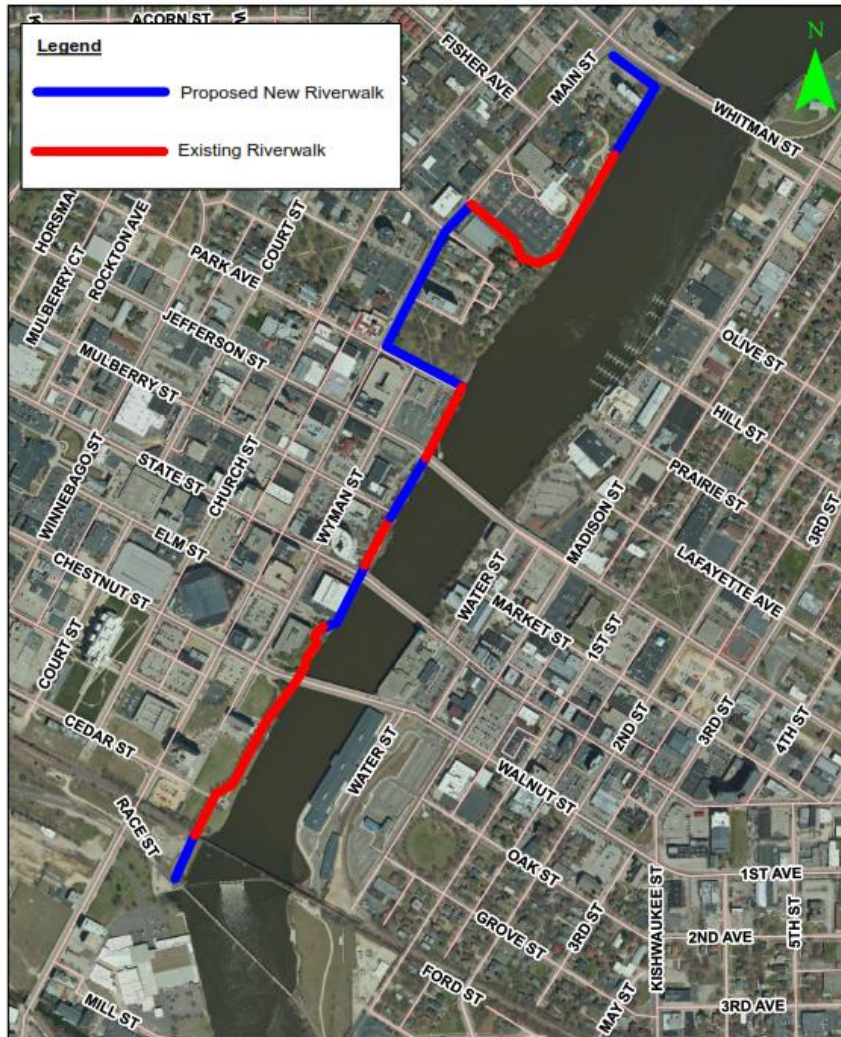


## Rockford Riverfront Development Plan (2019)

- Elements of past plans
- Commissioned by RPL to envision riverfront esplanade
- Proposed a modernized Riverfront Path
- Provided for river access and recreational connections
- Connected riverfront destinations to other ITEP funded projects



# Proposed Project

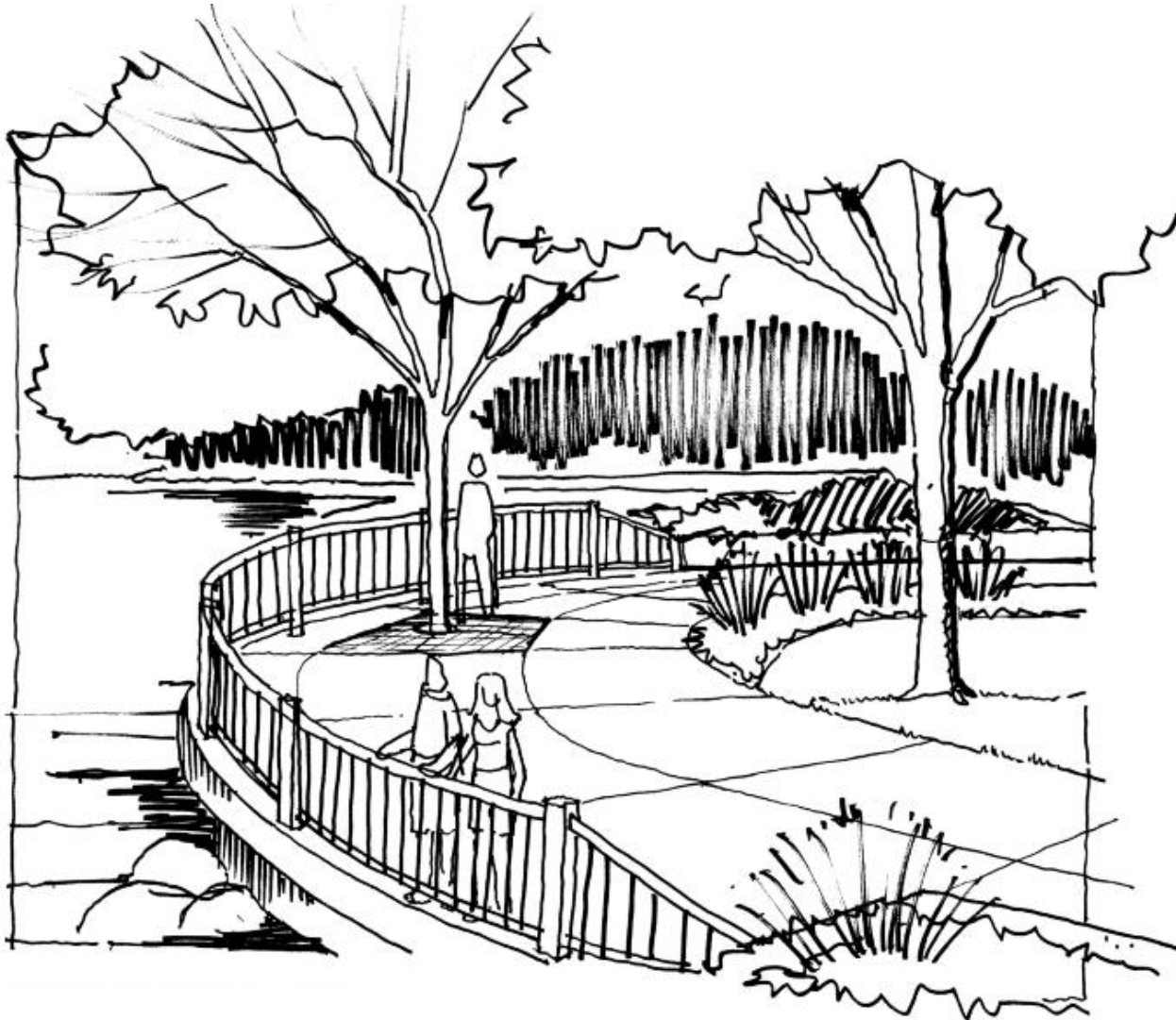


Riverwalk Engineering ITEP Application

- COR looking to perform preliminary engineering (**PE I**) on a modernized riverfront path
- Study area would span from **Whitman St** to the north and the **Rails to Trails pedestrian bridge** to the south
- Roughly **5,000 LF** of riverfront multi-use path on the western banks of the Rock River



# Proposed Project (cont.)



- 2019 Rockford Riverfront Development Plan estimated the **Riverfront Path** construction at **\$4.5M**
- PE I estimated cost is **\$400k** (\$320k Grant and \$80k local match) based on approximately **8-10%** of estimated construction cost
- Local match derived from several funding partners (**RPD, COR, RACVB, RPL**)



## Riverfront Path ITEP Virtual Open House

# Riverfront Path Project Overview

## *Questions or Comments?*

- Send us any questions through the Q&A box, and any general comments through the chat box!
- Live Poll: **Poll 2**



# 03

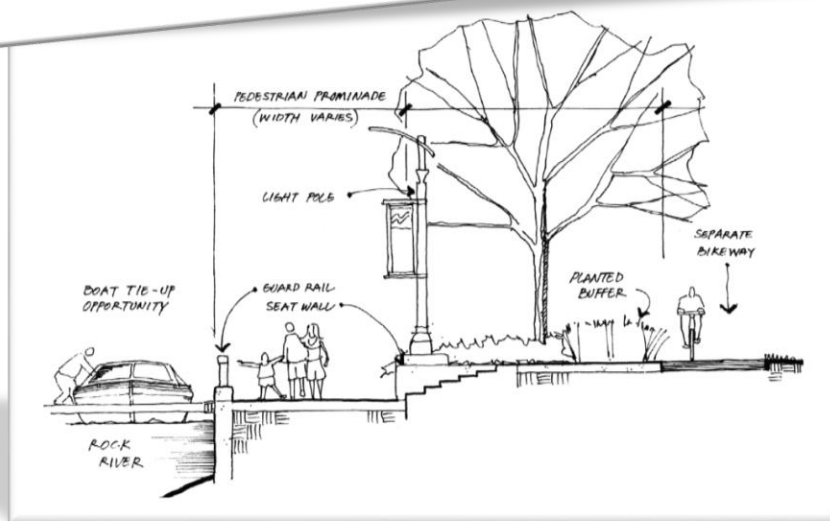
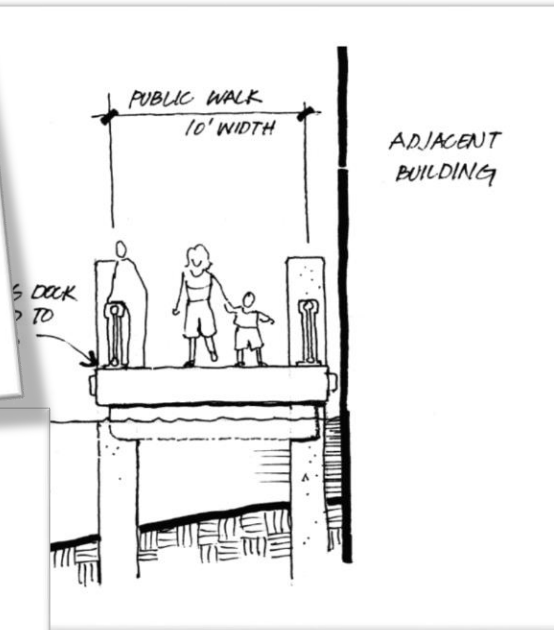
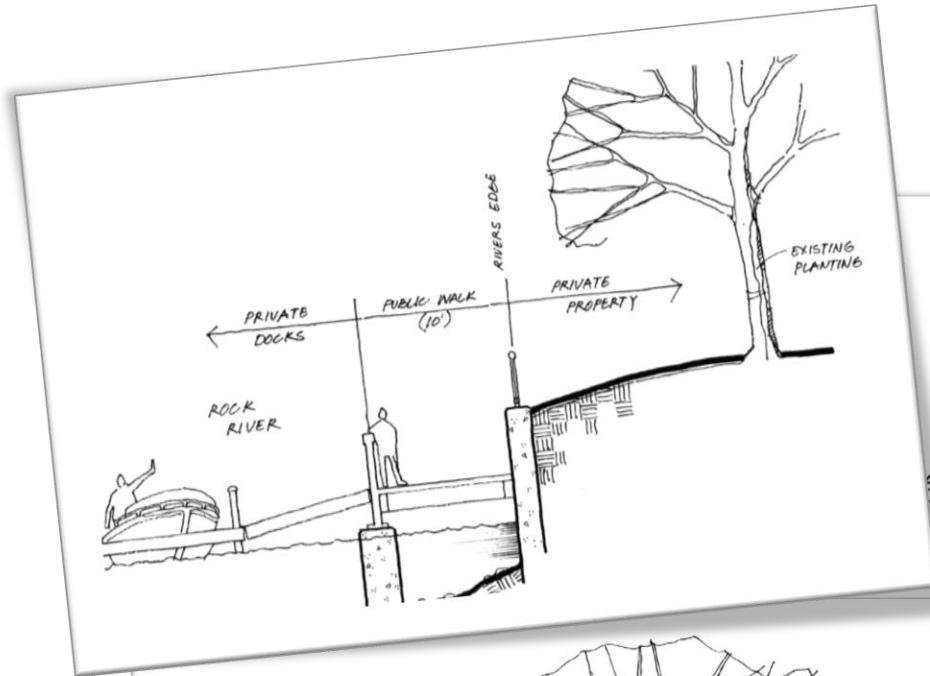
## Need for Preliminary Engineering

- **Phase I Engineering (PE I) Elements:**
  - Establish a set of design criteria
  - Identify purpose/need for the improvement
  - Perform existing settings/conditions analysis
  - Study alternatives
  - Implement coordination activities
  - Initiate public involvement
  - Establish conclusions/recommendations

- **Securing Grant Funding for PE I would:**
  - Determine the best overall approach and location
  - Prepare an estimate of cost
  - Define a scope of work
  - Position the City in a more “Shovel-Ready” state for securing additional grant funding for construction



# Why PE I? (cont.)



Securing grant funding for PE I would be the next step toward **transforming a concept/plan into a reality**



# 04

## Next Steps

- Grant applications **due November 2, 2020**
- Award notifications are expected by **Spring 2021**
- PE I is expected to take approximately **18 months** to complete
- Once complete with PE I, the City would anticipate submitting for additional grant funding to cover the costs of construction in the next round(s) of ITEP



## Riverfront Path ITEP Virtual Open House

- Live Poll: ***Poll 3***

**Thank you for joining!**